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CLMPTO

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1. A method of recovering a received packet comprising the steps of:
 - a) generating a soft value for each bit of the received packet;
 - b) storing the soft values of the received packet;
 - c) performing an error check on the received packet; and
 - d) responsive to detection of an error:
 - i) receiving a retransmission of the packet;
 - ii) generating a soft value for each bit of the retransmitted packet;
 - iii) combining each generated soft value with the respective last stored soft values;
 - iv) storing the combined soft values;
 - v) performing an error check based on the thus combined soft values; and
 - vi) responsive to detection of an error repeating steps i) to v).
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of combining each soft output value of the retransmitted packet with the respective stored soft output value comprises adding the respective soft values.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining a hard value from the soft values of the received packet.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the error check of step c) is performed on the hard value.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining a hard value from the combined soft values.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the error check of step v) is performed on the hard value.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein if no error is detected in step c) the hard value forms an output.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein if no error is detected in step v) the hard value forms an output.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step, prior to the step a) or i), of equalising the received packet.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the error check comprises a cyclic redundancy code check.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein in step vi), steps i) to v) are repeated a predetermined number of times.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein in step vi), steps i) to v) are repeated for the maximum number of retransmissions allowed by the system, or for the maximum delay per packet.

Claim 13 (canceled)

14. A receiver comprising:

- a) input circuitry for receiving a transmitted packet;
- b) generating circuitry, connected to the input circuitry, for generating a soft value for each bit of the received packet;
- c) storage circuitry for storing the thus generated soft values;
- d) error checking circuitry for performing an error check on the received packet; and
- e) combining circuitry, wherein responsive to detection of an error:
 - i) the input circuitry receives a retransmission of the packet;
 - ii) the generating circuitry generates a soft value for each bit of the retransmitted packet;
 - iii) the combining circuitry combines each generated soft value with the respective stored soft values;
 - iv) the storage circuitry stores combined soft values in place of the stored soft values;
 - v) the error checking circuitry performs an error check based on the thus combined soft values,
 - vi) wherein i) to v) are repeated responsive to detection of an error in v).

Claim 15 (canceled)